

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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TAGS: TGEN, BSF,IS

SUBJECT: U.S.-ISRAEL BINATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (BSF)

BOARD OF GOVERNORS (BOG) MEETING

1. THE BOG OF THE BSF ON FEBRUARY 17 CONDUCTED THEIR ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING IN JERUSALEM AT THE ISRAEL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES. AMBASSADOR TOON AND FINANCE MINISTRY RABINOWITZ PRESENTED OPENING GREETINGS AFTER INTRODUCTIONS BY DR STEVER, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND CHAIRMAN, BOG.

2. IN ADDITION TO ROUTINE MATTERS OF BUSINESS, THE BOG PASSED A RESOLUTION WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE REFERRED TO DURING SECRETARY SIMON'S VISIT. THIS RESOLUTION PROVIDED PREVIOUSLY IN DRAFT FORM AND REVIEWED IN WASHINGTON AND REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE V OF SECOND DRAFT OF JOINT STATEMENT (DATED 10 FEB 76) NOW READS AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
OF THE UNITED STATES-ISRAEL BINATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

THE BSF HAS BEEN ALLOCATING GRANTS SINCE MID 1974.

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ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED

BY THE FOUNDTION HAVE NOT YET REACHED COMPLETION
IT CAN BE STATED THAT THE PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY
THE FOUNDATION ARE IN AREAS OF INTEREST TO BOTH
THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENTS. THESE
PROJECTS WERE SELECTED ON THE BASIS OF HIGH SCIEN-
TIFIC AND/OR TECHNOLOGICAL MERIT AND OF POTENTIAL
BENEFIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES.

THE BSF PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN ENCOURAGING AND
FOSTERING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN BOTH
COUNTRIES. THE AIM OF THE FOUNDATION IS TO
SUPPORT RESEARCH WHICH WILL DEVELOP COOPERATIVE
ARRANGEMENTS, SUCH AS SINGLE PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT
IN EACH COUNTRY WITH FULL COORDINATION AND EXCHANGE
OF SCIENTISTS.

TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN IN FORMER YEARS HIGHLY
RATED RESEARCH PROPOSALS WORTHWHILE SUPPORTING
BECAUSE OF THEIR POTENTIAL BENEFIT TO BOTH
COUNTRIES CANNOT
BE ACTIVATED DUE TO
LACK OF FUNDS.

THE BOARD WISHES TO RECOMMEND TO BOTH
GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY EXAMINE THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASING
THE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO BSF TO SUPPORT ITS ACTIVITIES.

3. BOG DELTED DRAFT PREAMBLE (AS SHOWN IN DRAFT JOINT
STATEMENT) ON GROUNDS BSF PREDATES JOINT COMMITTEE, BOG
ADDED FOURTH PRAGRAPH TO REITERATE ITS INTEREY IN OBJ-
TAINING ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

4. FYI: BOG RECOGNIZES NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION (BIRDF) FAR ADVANCED IN NEGOT-
ATIONS AS SEPARATE ENTITY AND EOS NOT WISH TO CAUSE
DIFFICULTY WITH ITS FUNDNG. IT NEVERTHELESS WISHES TO
KEEP ITS DESIRE FOR INCREASED SUPPORT ON RECORD. THERE
ARE DIFFERENT ISRAELI INTEREST GROUPS
SUPPORTING EACH
FOUNDATION (BSF AND BIRDF) AND FINANCE MINISTER RABINO-
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WITZ WILL LIKELY EXPRESS DESIRES OF BOTH. HOWEVER,
ISRAELIS APPEAR TO PLACE HIGHER PRIORITY ON BIRDF, IN
CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT QUESTION OF IN-
CREASED FUNDS FOR BSF BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL BIRDF
IS FUNDED AND BSF EVALUATION IS COMPLETED.
TOON

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